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Palestinians in Ramallah burn photographs of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday. Story, Page 2 (Khaled Zighari)

Netanyahu: 242 applies to Golan

PM agreed to Clinton's request

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu agreed to President Bill Clinton's personal request made during their White House meeting last month to recognize UN Security Council Resolution 242 - which calls for trading territory for peace - as being applicable to the Golan Heights.

According to political sources, Netanyahu added a proviso to his concession: That Israel retains its traditional interpretation of 242, i.e., that it means relinquishing some but not necessarily all of the territory. Netanyahu appears therefore to be agreeing to the idea of territorial compromise on the Golan, but not full withdrawal.

Until now, Netanyahu's position has been that talks with Syria should begin "without preconditions," although while in the opposition, he had said at times that Israel need "not keep every centimeter" on the Golan.

Netanyahu's senior aide David Bar-Ilan has said publicly that Netanyahu had never precluded territorial compromise on the Golan, but he has never said that he embraced it.

Observers believe Netanyahu will seek to blur the 242 issue publicly by noting that the Likud government is committed to the letter of invitation issued before the Madrid peace conference, which states that all parties attending accept the UN resolution.

This formula of resuming talks with Syria on the basis of "Madrid" is what Israel submitted to the US last September, but this was rejected as a non-starter since it included no mention of any territorial concessions on the Golan.

Until now, the Likud has consistently refused to say that Resolution 242 applies directly to the Golan. Instead, it has preferred to keep the Madrid formula vague, so it could be interpreted as meaning that territory for peace might apply to some fronts - such as Lebanon in the future or Egypt in the past - but not necessarily all fronts.

Thus Netanyahu can convince his supporters that Israel's position has not changed, while at the same time giving the US leverage it seeks to privately coax Damascus back to the negotiating table after a one-year break.

US officials have been sympathetic to the idea that talks with Damascus should not start from scratch, but have not accepted the Syrian position that talks can only resume after Israel first commits to yielding the entire Golan Heights.

While Yitzhak Rabin told Clinton a few years ago that he would cede the entire Golan up to the June 4, 1967 lines - but only if Israel received adequate security arrangements - Syria insists that this was conveyed to them by Israeli interlocutors and hence it constitutes an "agreement." They say talks must resume where they left off, but Netanyahu has pointedly rejected any return to these borders.

In a letter that then secretary of state Warren Christopher wrote to Netanyahu last September, he made clear that the US backs Israel's position that unsigned statements, no matter who made them, are not legally binding.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bzarak said in response that the issue of "242 was not sharpened in Washington. Our position is that we accept the Madrid peace formula as the basis for talks with Syria."

Before leaving for Washington, Netanyahu had said he would seek a "bridging formula" as a basis for resuming talks with Syria, but has not disclosed what it is.

Meanwhile, there were reports over the weekend that Jordan's King Hussein told Netanyahu in Amman that his best chance of obtaining peace with Syria is opening links to Iraq, since Damascus would be startled by links with Baghdad.

However, this was apparently rejected by Netanyahu, who believes that Iraq must remain under UN sanctions, and any contacts with Iraq could undermine the moral basis for such international sanctions.

Levine warns Hizbullah

Soldier killed Friday to be buried today

By DAVID HUDGE

Tense quiet reigned in south Lebanon yesterday, after Friday's heavy fighting in which a soldier was killed and an officer seriously wounded in an abortive Hizbullah ground assault on an IDF outpost.

Sgt. Lior Shabtai, 19, of Rishon LeZion, the radio operator of a Merkava tank that Hizbullah hit with a missile, died at the scene. He is to be laid to rest at 3:30 this afternoon in the military cemetery in his home town.

Second Lieutenant Etzion Mordechai, of Jerusalem, who also was in the tank, was seriously wounded. He was evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where his condition yesterday remained serious but stable.

At least four Hizbullah gunmen were killed in the gunbattle centered around the IDF's Dabsha position in the zone's eastern sector. This brought to seven the number of Hizbullah gunmen known to have been killed by IDF and South Lebanese Army troops last week.

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine warned Hizbullah against further escalating the situation by firing Katyusha rockets at Galilee communities.

"Hizbullah is threatening with Katyushas because it's in a state of distress, as a result of its casualties and by not succeeding in fulfilling its missions," Levine told reporters on Friday during a visit to the wounded soldier and his family at Rambam.

"If Hizbullah does fire Katyushas, we will know how to respond and punish it in such a way that the war will be more on the other side, rather than on our side," he said.

Friday's fighting, which continued from the previous night, began around 6 a.m. when IDF troops manning the Dabsha post spotted a Hizbullah squad in the area. The troops went to battle stations and the Merkava tank moved into an attack position and fired at the gunmen from long range.

Another Hizbullah squad opened fire at the tank with armor-piercing missiles, one of which scored a direct hit.

An initial inquiry into the incident revealed that the troops had acted properly and quickly by moving out to hit the attackers.

"It was a ground assault [by Hizbullah]. I don't know if the aim was to reach the position or just nearby and from there try to fire [at it] with snipers and anti-tank missiles, or plant explosive devices, or a combination [of all three]," Levine said.

"These methods are known to us. The [Hizbullah] forces were located as a result of the alertness of the soldiers at the position, who acted properly. They went out to confront them, charged and killed a large number of the terrorists."

A question mark, however, surrounds the attack on the Merkava, considered to be one of the best protected tanks in the world. Military sources said the inquiry into the incident would concentrate on whether the crew had batted down the missiles and if so, how the missile managed to pierce the tank's protective armor.

The sources said experts would examine the damaged tank to try and ascertain the type of missile used, where it struck and what can be done to prevent future occurrences.

The IDF Spokesman noted that, as in recent cases, some of the long-range firing originated from populated areas north of the zone, a breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Israel has lodged a protest with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the firing on Friday from within Nabatiya township. The group is to meet at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura tomorrow to discuss the complaint.

In response to the bombardments, IDF artillery, supported by helicopter gunships, blasted Hizbullah positions. Later in the morning, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets north of the zone, in the eastern sector. The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits, and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Ben-Yair: Hanegbi should resign

By MICHAEL FIDELMAN

Justice Minister Tzvi Hanegbi should resign until the investigation into the Bar-On affair is completed, due to his possible involvement in the affair, former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair said yesterday.

Ben-Yair also called for an investigation into the appointments of Hanegbi and Ya'acov Ne'eman, who was justice minister before him, and the extent of Shas MK Aryeh Deri's involvement in these appointments.

Speaking on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game*, Ben-Yair said "it is not proper that a justice minister, who is in charge of bodies which should make decisions in his case, should continue in office."

Meanwhile, Shas's spiritual mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, is expected to be questioned by police in the Bar-On affair, Channel 1's Amos Abramovitz reported on Friday night.

Last week the two Shas ministers, Eli Yisbaal and Eli Suissa, were questioned about the affair. Deri has been questioned several times.

The police are trying to find out why Shas's ministers voted for Bar-On's appointment in the cabinet, even though Yosef told Channel 2 early last month that he had never heard of Bar-On and that he thought Shas's candidate for the post was former Supreme Court justice Tsvi Tal.

Ben-Yair noted that Ne'eman resigned as soon as Ben-Yair, who was then attorney-general, told him that the police check into Ne'eman's possible obstruction of justice in Deri's current fraud and bribery trial had turned into a full-blown investigation.

"His decision was guided by the assumption that it would not be proper for a minister in charge of bodies which must make decisions in his case to remain in office. But I thought he should have quit earlier, as soon as it became known that a query into his conduct would be held, because the difference between a police check and investigation is very small and insignificant."

Another thing which should be investigated is the involvement of certain coalition elements - namely Shas and Deri - in the appointment of these justice ministers, Ben-Yair said.

"Shas is the third-largest party and there is no question that it is a party to talks about major government appointments. The problem is that it is headed by a man on trial for bribery."

"When such a man is partner to these talks, then the extent of his involvement in the appointment of justice ministers who could influence his trial, must be investigated."

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo said the Bar-On affair exposed a situation in which the rule of law here was under a real danger, because people linked to criminal acts are involved in appointing the attorney-general.

"What appears certain at this stage is that there is a very serious story here, and this is not 'complete gibberish' [as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called the affair when it was first made public]."

Milo, a former police minister, said "I am very worried indeed. This is one of the most severe things to have happened since the establishment of the state. It appears the rule of law is in real danger, and that parties facing criminal charges had a part in determining who the attorney-general would be, or had influence on his choice. According to the police briefing, the justice minister is involved in one way or another."

De Charette: Peace process key to stopping violence in Lebanon

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - The quicker that peace talks between Israel and Lebanon and Syria resume, the sooner the violence in southern Lebanon will stop, said French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, who is arriving in Israel tomorrow.

Israel is his first stop in a five-day Middle East tour, during which he also will visit Lebanon and Syria.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, de Charette said that, even if the relations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon are currently difficult, they might be capable of making progress on the road of peace.

De Charette, who met last Thursday in Paris with Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, refused to disclose whether the Syrian officials asked him to transmit any message to the Israeli government.

"Naturally, I will [relay] the report on my discussions with Vice President Khaddam and minister Shara to my Israeli interlocutors. What I can tell you is that I am convinced that the Syrians want peace. I say that because I see in Israel debates that prove the existence of doubts [concerning Syrians' intentions] in Israeli public opinion and among Israeli leaders. To think that today Syria does not want peace would be a mistaken assessment. However, it is true that the Syrians do not want to negotiate without knowing in advance on what basis the talks will start."

De Charette stressed that the only way to stop the violence in south Lebanon is through the peace process.

"The quicker peace will get on the move on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the sooner the violence will stop," he said. "For a long time the idea that it would be possible to treat the Lebanese problem separately has persisted. I am convinced that this way offers no perspectives whatsoever."

De Charette was told by Khaddam and Shara that President Hafez Assad was in good health. De Charette will meet Assad on Wednesday evening.

In recent weeks, France has been involved in intensive diplomatic contacts with the Syrians, Lebanese and the Israelis. Before meeting Khaddam and Shara last week, President Jacques Chirac had long phone conversations with Assad and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He also met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister David Levy. According to de Charette, all these contacts not only prove the intensive involvement of the French, but also that the parties in the Middle East are becoming more and more interested in France.

Nonetheless, de Charette said, there is no specific French diplomatic initiative that will enable a breakthrough in the stalemate between Israel and Syria.

"We are not there. France does not wish to have the role of a lone rider. We are working together with our European partners, and naturally we work and want to work in tight cooperation with our American friends. We believe that France can be a useful partner in the search for peace," de Charette said.

"The fact that the Syrian president asked his deputy and his foreign minister to come to Paris, both of them together, which is an unusual thing, shows well that France is an important partner in the peace process."

The French foreign minister does not entirely share Syria's opinion that the peace process cosponsors, the US and Russia, are "lazy." But he added that during

Continued on Page 3

The Jerusalem Post
welcomes the
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Annual Leadership Mission

led by Leon Levy, Chairman
Lester Pollack and Kenneth Bialkin,
Mission Co-Chairmen
Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman

and wishes them success in all their meetings and deliberations in Israel and during their important visit to Uzbekistan



The Israel Cancer Association
 sends its deep condolences to
Sam Sebba
 on the passing away of his dear wife
Bella
 Suzy Eban President John Furman Honorary Chairman Prof. Elezer Robinson-Chairman

Good-bye **Babbie**
 from your nieces and their families who will miss you so
 Jean, Shirley, Ruth, Uschi

We mourn the passing
 of our dear and beloved friend
BELLA SEBBA
 and extend our heartfelt sympathy
 to Sam Sebba
 and all members of the bereaved family.
 Maurice and Vivienne Wohl

The International Board of Directors
 The International Board of Governors
 The Management and Staff of the
 Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem
 mourn the passing of
ISABELLA SEBBA י"ה
 May the Almighty comfort her husband Mr. Sam Sebba,
 Member of the International Board of Governors
 and a devoted and generous friend
 children, grandchildren and the entire family.
 ומקום ירום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Bar-Ilan University
 deeply mourns the passing of a great woman
BELLA SEBBA י"ה
 wife of our dear friend and noble benefactor
 Sam Sebba
 The Bar-Ilan University family remembers Bella for
 her kindness and constant friendship. As
 Presidential Founders, she and Sam devoted
 tremendous energy to the development of
 the university, to Bar-Ilan's Institute of Advanced
 Technology, and especially to the welfare of
 the student body. We intensely feel the pain of her
 departure, and extend to Sam deepest condolences.
 Bar-Ilan University's 23,000 students and
 1,300 faculty salute her memory.
 May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.
 Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President
 and the entire Bar-Ilan University family

Our dear
BELLA is no more
SAM SEBBA
 and all the family
 The funeral will depart from Beit Hadar, Tel-Mond,
 at 3 p.m., today, Sunday, March 2, 1997 for the Tel-Mond cemetery.
 Shiva: Dan Accadia Hotel, Herzliya

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
 husband, father and saba
CYRIL (Israel) CAMMERMAN
 His wife Pearl Cammerman
 Annabelle and Dan Reisinger and family
 Phillip and Barbara Cammerman and family
 Fegle and Moshe Barkan and family
 Steve and Shula Daren and family
 Michel and Carolyn Daren and family
 The funeral will take place on Monday, March 3, 1997, at 1 p.m.
 at the new Netanya cemetery. Meet at the gates.
 Shiva will take place at the deceased's home at Dankner Street 19/3, Netanya.

Husseini: Har Homa kills peace

By JON IMMANUEL

"If bulldozers are brought to the area it will mean the end of the peace process," Faisal Husseini, the Palestinian Authority's chief representative in Jerusalem, said during a protest at Har Homa yesterday.

Palestinian protests against planned Israeli building on Har Homa, which Palestinians call Jebel Abu G'neim, expanded over the weekend with more protests, planned strikes and diplomatic initiatives abroad.

In Ramallah, supporters of the opposition PLO group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, celebrating last week's 28th anniversary of the organization, burned pictures of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat told a meeting of the Arab League in Cairo that if Netanyahu could unilaterally decide to build in a hitherto undeveloped part of Jerusalem across the Green Line then he could unilaterally declare statehood.



Muslim worshippers pray opposite Har Homa on Friday. (David Rubinger)

"What would Netanyahu say to that?" he asked rhetorically.

Arafat raised the rhetoric by declaring that the neighborhood at Har Homa will cut Palestinian access to the Old City, adding that Israel had a plan to build a new Temple on the Temple Mount where Al-Aksa Mosque is today. The plan not only Judaizes Jerusalem but also Bethlehem, he said. Har Homa is closer to Bethlehem than any existing Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem. Palestinians hoped to wrest the undeveloped area from Israeli control in final status talks in order to link Abu Dis, which they consider part of Jerusalem, with Bethlehem, which is under PA control.

Arafat is to arrive in Washington today where he will meet President Bill Clinton who has cautioned the Palestinians not to resort to violence, while his administration has expressed opposition to the Israeli decision.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa is also going to Washington and will raise the issue.

"It is unacceptable globally, unacceptable internationally, unacceptable regionally," he said, warning it could lead "to the destruction of, or affect adversely, the peace process."

Even Arafat's wife, Suha, made a rare political comment, saying, "It is not just a Palestinian issue, but an Arab issue."

The Palestinian Legislative Council met in Ramallah yesterday and decided to hold a comprehensive strike tomorrow, keeping the issue before the people in the hope of deterring Israel from actually starting work on the neighborhood, which in its first stage is to include more than 2,000 units.

"Hands off East Jerusalem," "Peace or Settlement" read the emblazoned banners which accompanied several hundred marchers there yesterday.

"We are here in a campaign to mobilize our people. On the day the Israeli government will take a decision to send the bulldozers, on that day we must be here," Husseini said.

Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, one of Arafat's major Palestinian critics, said the problem for the Palestinians is that "when Israel does things unilaterally on the basis of its military power, nobody knows how to address the matter."

We are not a match for Israeli military power so what are we going to do?"

He said he did not advise violence, but "I think when Palestinians are subjected to this sort of aggression it is their right to defend themselves by all means including legitimate armed struggle [by which he excluded attacks on civilians], but to actually

decide on armed struggle is another matter."

He conceded that the Palestinians might now gain more by sticking to the diplomatic path. He felt that much of the protesting so far has been "a bit of a pretense" because "all Israeli settlement activities are illegal, a violation of the terms of reference of the peace process. It deprives the peace process of any meaning."

We mourn our dear friend **Lilly**
The Lady Sieff
 and express our heartfelt condolences
 to her husband Lord Sieff and
 her daughter Daniella
 Josef and Raya Jaglom

The Board of Directors
 and the staff of **The Israel Museum, Jerusalem**
 deeply mourn the passing of
LADY SIEFF
 of Brompton
 Chairman of the British Friends of the Art Museums of
 Israel and a great friend of The Israel Museum

The Beracha Foundation
 mourns
LADY LILLY SIEFF
 of Brompton
 a distinguished and beloved member
 of the board

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

The LIBI Fund thanks Mr. David Azrieli

The LIBI fund recently held successful fundraising campaigns in Jerusalem and Beersheba with the active cooperation of the Canon Yerushalayim and the Canon Hanegev. As a mark of appreciation, the LIBI Fund presented a gift to Mr. David Azrieli.

In the picture: Col. Meir Blayer, LIBI Fund Commander, presents a gift to Mr. David Azrieli.

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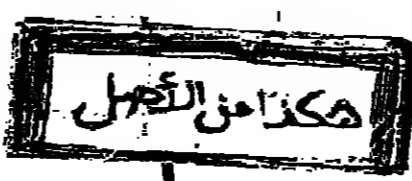
2. Period of Contract: The entire period of development, plus 12 months warranty, with an option for an additional seven years.
3. a. To receive the tender documents and further details, please contact the Secretary of the Department of Properties and Services, 2nd Floor, 29 Rehov Rivka, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-568-1221, 02-568-1364, during regular working hours. (The tender documents will be available beginning March 4, 1997).
- b. To receive the documents, one must pay the sum of NIS 3000 by means of payment voucher, payable to the Postal Bank, Account No. 0-03907-8, payable to the "Ministry of Health, Department of Properties and Services."
- c. For queries and further details, call Ms. Michal Ben-Dor, Tel. 02-670-6612 or 02-671-5570, during regular working hours.
4. Bids must be submitted at the Tender Box, 2nd Floor, 29 Rehov Rivka, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, no later than April 28, 1997 at 12 noon.
5. a. Any reservations or questions must be submitted in writing no later than March 20, 1997, at the following address: 4 Shaalom Yehuda St., Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-670-6612, or Fax: 02-671-5570.
- b. It will be assumed that any bidder who does not do so agrees to the conditions specified in the tender.
6. a. Basic Conditions for Submitting Bids:
 - 1) Written confirmation from an accountant regarding the bidder's business volume, in accordance with Income Tax regulations.
 - 2) Non-refundable payment of NIS 3,000 prior to receiving the tender documents.
 - 3) Participants in the tender must be suppliers who are a legal incorporated body with proven experience of at least five years in providing services of the type detailed in this tender, and whose gross volume for 1996 was at least NIS 20,000,000, as confirmed by an accountant's statement. A bidder may also be an Israeli subsidiary, and the requirements of this clause may be fulfilled by the parent firm, which will also serve as guarantor for the bid of the supplier.
 - 4) A certificate stating that the bidder is a registered business for purposes of VAT must be enclosed with the bid.
 - 5) A bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 750,000, linked to the cost of Living and valid for 180 days following the last date of submitting the bid.
 - 6) Participation in a meeting of suppliers to take place on March 27, 1997, at 11 a.m., at the Tonia Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 29 Rehov Rivka, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem.
 - 7) The main supplier must be a software company whose employees will develop and/or update the main system (patient management) and the intermediary applications described in the tender documents.
7. The Ministry of Health reserves the right to negotiate with the most suitable bidders prior to determining the winner of the tender, in accordance with Clause 7 of the Tender Regulations.
8. The Ministry may give preference to legal bodies having the greatest experience in the services required in this tender and which have manpower with the greatest experience.
9. The Ministry is not obligated to accept the lowest bid, any part thereof, or to divide the order and give preference to experienced bidders, as specified in the conditions of the tender. Likewise, it may cancel, amend or reduce the scope of the tender in accordance with budgetary and/or administrative or organizational considerations.
10. The stipulations of the Mandatory Tender Regulations (Preference for Produced Goods, and the Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) regarding commercial cooperation, will apply to the winner of the tender in suitable cases.

Shelagh and Freddie Krivine
 Wish to extend their heartfelt condolences on
 the passing of
BELLA SEBBA י"ה
 To Sam and the entire family
 She was the kindest, sweetest, and most generous
 person we knew.

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of our
 beloved mother, grandmother and sister-in-law
SANNA (Shoshana) DORFAN
 March 1, 1997
 Ella and Collin
 Lynn and Mervyn
 Mannie and Mia
 Taube
 Cella and loving families
 For funeral details phone 09-866-6654

To Ruth and Morty Leibowitz
 Our deepest sympathy on the tragic death of
JOSHUA
 Fay, Morty and Yaacov Lloyd
 Rikid and Jeff Balsam

Kehillat Moriah, Jerusalem
 mourns the tragic and untimely passing of its member
JOSHUA LEIBOWITZ י"ה
 May the family be comforted among the
 mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



Israeli Arabs protest Har Homa decision

By DAVID RUDGE

Arab local council heads are pressing for an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to protest the decision to approve the planned construction at Jerusalem's Har Homa.

In another step, the Supreme Monitoring Committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, composed of council heads, Arab MKs, and public figures, is to hold a meeting at the site on Wednesday.

Afterwards the committee is scheduled to discuss various measures by which Israeli Arabs can protest the government's decision. Suggestions include mass demonstrations in Jerusalem, protest sit-ins and even a general strike in the Arab sector.

The decisions were taken at a meeting yesterday of the Forum of Arab Council Heads, held in Kafra Manda in the Galilee. The forum issued a statement denouncing what it described as the government's settlement plans.

"The forum called for the meeting of the monitoring committee to be held at Jebel Abu G'neim [Har Homa] to see exactly what's happening, and to make decisions on measures in which the Arab public will also participate," said Abed Inbitawi, director-general of the monitoring committee.

"The committee will also visit the [Western Wall] tunnel after the forum heard that excavations of several other tunnels are still taking place there," said Inbitawi, who is also the Shfaram municipal spokesman.

"It was also decided at the meeting to press for urgent meetings with the prime minister and the mayor of Jerusalem so that we can express our concern and protest over the [Har Homa] decision," he said. "We are calling on them to defer this decision for the sake of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians."

The forum, at its meeting in Kafra Manda, also discussed plans to commemorate Land Day on March 30. Land Day marks the anniversary of the first demonstration by Israeli Arabs in 1976 against the expropriation of Arab-owned land.

It was decided that the main rally will be held in Rahat in the Negev, in solidarity with Beduin residents struggling to improve their housing and their living conditions generally.

Marches will also be staged in towns and villages in the Galilee, and there will be visits to the cemeteries where the six Israeli Arabs killed in violent clashes with the security forces in the first Land Day demonstrations are buried.

Palestinians forced off Jordan Valley experimental farm

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF soldiers and police forced some 150 Palestinians to leave the area called the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm in the Jordan Valley on Friday afternoon.

The group of Palestinians showed up at the 380-dunam plot on Friday morning and refused to leave the area.

According to Jordan Valley Settlement Committee spokeswoman Tami Atiya, Jordan Valley Residents Committee head David Elhayani and Jordan Valley Regional Council head David Levy filed complaints with police and the Defense Ministry, claiming that troops who arrived at the scene did not intervene or try to disperse them.

Atiya said that soldiers and police forced the Palestinians to leave later in the afternoon.

when one of the Palestinians, whom Atiya claims is in charge of agricultural affairs for the Palestinian Authority, climbed on a tractor and attempted to plow the land.

The area has been the scene of several clashes in the past. Shortly before the Hebrew redeployment, the IDF declared the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm a closed military zone.

The Palestinians claim that the land belongs to them, since in the Oslo accords it stipulated that all experimental farms in the territories will be handed over to the Palestinians.

Israel maintains however that the area ceased to be an experimental farm in 1988, when it was turned over to the World Zionist Organization's settlement division. In 1994 it became a part of Moshav Masua.

DE CHARETTE

Continued from Page 1.

ing the current difficult period "one has to stir oneself up a little bit in order to advance."

During his 48-hour stay in Israel, de Charette plans to work on improving the image the Israeli public has of his country. For the first time in years, a visiting French foreign minister will not limit himself to discussions with officials, but also will meet politicians of various parties, intellectuals, artists and journalists.

De Charette said he has often been hurt by the Israeli public's misunderstanding of French intentions and actions.

"France is Israel's friend. It is true that we are also the friends of the Arab states. It is unquestionable that France and the Arab countries have a common history of 1,000 years.

"But, we also have a very profound relationship with Israel; I would even say that it is a very warm relationship, that, among other things, comes from the fact that in France there is a very important Jewish community that has a big influence within French society. There is also the fact that we were the first to help the young State of Israel during its difficult birth, and that personal ties link many French to Israel.

"I believe that the Israelis have difficulty in understanding all that, because the relationship between France and Israel is inspired by passion. Like all passions, it does not stand mediocrity. So sometimes our relationship is positive and sometimes negative—like the relationship that Elizabeth Taylor had with Richard Burton.

"I would like to be better understood, not only by the Israeli authorities, with whom I have a very good dialogue, but also by the Israeli people. We have to give the French-Israeli relationship a

stability without letting it lose its force.

"It is possible, but to do it one has to admit that France can be the friend of Israel without being the enemy of its neighbors. We can have different opinions on specific subjects, without putting in question our friendship."

De Charette said that he wishes to strengthen and develop the ties with Israel in all domains, and stressed that French-Israeli bilateral relations are not completely dependant on the peace process. He expressed concern that certain elements in Israel are hostile to efforts to deepen ties between the two countries.

De Charette rejected the claim that France is pro-Arab.

"Generally speaking, our policy does not consist of being the lawyers for one side at the expense of the other side. I've always said that France wanted to have a 'middle-of-the-road' policy. It is not an affected policy, but, quite to the contrary, a policy that is attentive to the concerns of all sides."

De Charette has an aunt who lives in a convent in Abu Ghosh, near Jerusalem, whom he visits each time he travels to Israel. In 1959, the young de Charette spent three months at Kibbutz Hanita, next to the border with Lebanon.

"It gives me a great advantage over many Israelis who never went to a kibbutz. It was a period of high tension, and I still have a very emotional memory of it. It is one of the best memories of my youth, because I was full of admiration for those young people that came from elsewhere and had chosen this destiny of helping to create a new nation.

"And the idea of sharing life together, not only work, filled me with enthusiasm. It made me consider Israel as a country that was well ahead of its time. I wish Israel will always be ahead of its time and that it will always be ahead on the way to peace."

Five killed in weekend traffic accidents

Five people were killed on the nation's roads over the weekend.

Yizhak Bukai, 66, of Kiryat Yam, was killed when another car crashed into the car he was driving on the old Tel Aviv-Haifa Road yesterday.

The other driver lost control of the car by the Pardess-Zichron Ya'acov Junction and veered into the oncoming traffic, slamming into Bukai's car. Four passengers in Bukai's car also were injured.

In a head-on collision between two cars the previous day at the same location, 15-year-old Shalom Habib, of Ashdod, was killed and several people were injured.

Firefighters, Magen David Adom workers and police came to the scene to extricate several people who were trapped in the cars and then took them to Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera.

Two people were killed and several injured in an accident that occurred by Hazor Junction near Gedera on Friday when a

car tried to pass another car. The impact of the crash killed one of the drivers, while the other died later at Kaplan Hospital in Rebovot.

In another accident on Friday near Omer, Gil Litvak, 23, of Omer, was killed and his friend Nimrod Ari, 21, of Omer, was critically injured.

Ari was taken to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. Police said it seems that the driver was speeding and lost control of the car.

Twelve people were injured in an accident at the Golani Junction yesterday evening when a car swerved into oncoming traffic, hitting two other vehicles. The injured were taken to Poriya Hospital. Police are investigating the accident.

A motorcyclist was seriously injured yesterday in an accident near the Shoshon Junction on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway. He was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem.



A Magen David Adom crew rescues an accident victim yesterday on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway. (Yizhak Othar/Scoop 80)

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CUT 'n SAVE!

WINDOL
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NEWS

in brief

Family, friends mark Rabin's 75th birthday

Friends and family of the late Yitzhak Rabin marked his 75th birthday Friday at Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv...

Brit performed at Kotel

A rare if not unprecedented event took place at the Western Wall yesterday, when a circumcision was performed right in front of the Wall...

Fuel prices down

Fuel prices were lowered at midnight, in line with the general reductions in price in the world market...

Man remanded for running wife off the road

A 48-year-old Ramat Gan man was remanded Friday for five days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court...

Netanya man arrested for child molesting

The Netanya Magistrate's Court ordered a local man remanded on Friday for four days on suspicion of molesting young children in the city...

Winning cards

In Friday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, the eight of hearts, the ten of diamonds...



Walk for water

Robert Grossman gives Sue Abenson a hand on their hike through the Ramon Crater on Thursday as part of the fourth annual Walk for Water Campaign...

WEATHER forecast for Israel and surrounding regions including Haifa, Jerusalem, Beer Sheva, and international locations like Amsterdam and Tokyo.

Zvilli: We must act on Bar-On

By MICHAL YUDELMAN. Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli yesterday came out against the party's silence vis-a-vis the Bar-On affair...

Swiss banks open records to New York regulators

NEW YORK (AP) - Gov. George Pataki announced last week that the Swiss Federal Banking Commission has agreed to give New York bank regulators extensive access to World War II-era records stored in Switzerland...

Dreyfus Internet sale nets \$178,000

PARIS (AP) - An Internet auction of letters, drawings, newspaper clippings and other documents from France's infamous Dreyfus Affair fetched more than 1 million francs (\$178,000)...

Weinroth hires, then fires PR man

By MICHAL YUDELMAN. Public relations adviser Menahem Sbeizaf, who was hired last Wednesday by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's defense attorney...

Ramon: I may be in race for prime minister in 2000

By URIEL HELLMAN. Political roles were somewhat reversed on Friday when Likud MK Michael Kleiner and Labor MK Haim Ramon spoke Friday at the Zionist Organization House in Tel Aviv at a Jerusalem Post-sponsored forum...



From left, MK Michael Kleiner, moderator David Mitnick and MK Haim Ramon.

Advertisement for 'The Book Department' featuring 'STUDIES IN THE WEEKLY SIDRA' and 'POPULAR HALACHAH' books. Includes contact information for orders and prices.

Handwritten note at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة القدس' (Library of Jerusalem).